

Local Drought Impact Group Steering Committee Meeting
Pinal County
Arizona Department Water Resource in Casa Grande
April 12, 2007
prepared by the Pinal County Local Drought Impact Group

Attending:

Bill Garfield	Arizona Water Co, by telephone
Art Carlson	Pinal County
Rob Burton	The Nature Conservancy
Oliver Anderson	Private Land Owner
Doug Mason	San Carlos Irrigation
Rick Gibson	U of A Cooperative Extension
Bruce Hallin	Salt River Project
Randy Edmond	Arizona Department of Water Resources, Pinal AMA
Terry Ellsworth	U of A Cooperative Extension, administrative assistant

The Pinal County LDIG Steering Committee members met April 12, 2007 at the Arizona Department of Water Resources in Casa Grande. The following points and decisions were made.

1. There was full agreement among the steering committee members that the working groups are key to the success of the Local Drought Impact Group. These groups need to be strengthened and given opportunity to fulfill their assignments. Knowing that the Education and Outreach and Monitoring working groups have few members at this time, it was decided that during their startup mode, temporary working group chairs will be appointed from the steering committee until such a time that the working groups are fully organized and functioning. Then, a permanent chair will be appointed from within the working group. Bruce Hallin and Rob Burton agreed to co-chair the Monitoring Working Group and Rick Gibson agreed to temporarily chair the Education and Outreach Working Group. Oliver Anderson will serve as a temporary member of the Monitoring Working Group.
2. The Arizona Department of Water Resources website was reviewed.
http://www.azwater.gov/WaterManagement_2005/content/AMAs/PinalAMA/default.html/ The section on index wells was particularly of interest. It was decided that the Monitoring Working Group would look for more details, visit with Frank Corkhill at the invitation of Randy Edmond, Susan Craig and Evelyn Erlandsen and determine how best to obtain well depth, stream flows and precipitation variations over time. The working group will report at the next steering committee meeting.
3. Discussion then shifted to education and outreach. While all agreed that eventually a public forum describing and defining drought issues in Pinal County would be necessary, there was also agreement that a better definition of drought and the parameters affecting drought management in Pinal County was needed before any outreach occurred. The working group should continue to look at ways of distributing information and work with the Monitoring Working Group to develop educational plans. A forum date can be set at a later date.
4. Before much within the working groups progresses, the steering committee and local coordinators should ensure that all members have access to appropriate data to allow the best decisions to be made with the greatest degree of accuracy. The steering committee will request from the Arizona Department of Water Resources a map or maps that show visually the status of water supplies and demands as they currently exist.
5. The calendar of events for the summer include working group meetings during April and May, a steering committee meeting to hear reports from the working group chairs in late June or early July and a full group meeting in early to mid September. Dates will be set later.